

SEP 05 2001

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JOSEPH CARRUTHERS: Good evening, ladies

8 and gentlemen. My name is Joseph Carruthers. I'm  
9 a resident of Eureka County residing in Crescent  
10 Valley, Nevada, and I am here on behalf of the  
11 citizens of Eureka County and the citizens of the  
12 state of Nevada. And here's my presentation to you  
13 tonight.

14 The bulk of my comments are taken from  
15 Eureka County Commissioners in response to the  
16 Impact Assessment Report on proposed shipments of  
17 nuclear waste to Nevada. Nevada's primary  
18 responsibility is to protect the health and the  
19 safety of its residents.

20 The proposed shipping campaign, which  
21 Congress and President Bush may impose on Elko and  
22 Eureka Counties as well as the citizens of Nevada  
23 and the United States, involves great risk. It  
24 would have numerous impacts which have not been  
25 fully disclosed. Since DOE's risk analysis assigns

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1 higher waste to urban areas than rural areas, it  
2 downplays the impacts that would be felt by the  
3 rural people. That is us.

4 A rural population received damaging  
5 dosages of radiation in the '50s and '60s when  
6 nuclear weapon tests conducted by the Atomic Energy  
7 Commission. The current proposal would continue  
8 the pattern of placing disproportionate risk on our  
9 residents.

10 The issues of transportation of spent  
11 nuclear fuel and high level nuclear waste has  
12 fallen greatly short of the adequate information  
13 and detailed analysis in the Environmental Impact  
14 Statement. And I must say having read that impact  
15 statement for our county I am appalled how  
16 shortsighted it is. I find this extremely  
17 offensive, especially when so many restrictions  
18 have been put on ranching and mining and not to

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19 mention road closures to protect endangered  
20 species.

21           The construction of a rail line through  
22 Eureka County via Crescent Valley would affect wild  
23 habitat from mule deer, pronghorn antelope, sage  
24 grouse and other species too lengthy for discussion  
25 with the present amount of time given now.

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1           Concerning the human environment, the  
2 proposed rail line would irreversibly alter a  
3 historic way of life of the rural west, one that we  
4 all depend on. Within Eureka County the proposed  
5 rail line would have an affect up to 59 percent of  
6 private land along the corridor. This would  
7 convert a large amount of private land to  
8 construction and protection of the rail line, not  
9 its residents, having adverse impact on the  
10 county's tax base and accounting, and that means  
11 real estate as well. We'll have people who live  
12 just by meager means in our county and our towns  
13 will be displaced. Where are they going to go?  
14 They cannot afford to go anywhere else. Do you not  
15 care?

16           Once again mining and ranching and private  
17 enterprise, property values would be diminished.  
18 For example, who will purchase beef with possible  
19 radiation exposure? No one. If an accident were  
20 to occur, numerous impacts such as contamination of  
21 the Humboldt River would affect almost the entire  
22 northern part of the state, not to mention the  
23 Crescent Valley aquifer and soil contamination way  
24 beyond any financial means we could possibly take  
25 care of. The cost burden on Eureka and Elko

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1 Counties would be potentially far greater than our  
2 county's ability to pay in liability.

3           I would also like to make a mention on  
4 this energy crisis, as you will, as we're being

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5 told. I would like to reply on this because I have  
6 felt this and heard this from many people just in  
7 Northern Nevada alone.

8 Our energy crisis is a crisis made by  
9 those who control the energy as well as our own  
10 consumption due to wastefulness. The current price  
11 gouging at the pump should speak for itself. Solar  
12 energy and wind generation go unpursued financially  
13 due to profits over common sense. My friends, that  
14 is bad science and I'm going to get real on this  
15 real quick so fasten your seat belt because here's  
16 my comments.

17 If Washington, D.C. is the mother of her  
18 children, then Nevada is the abused child,  
19 defecated on by a government that no longer can  
20 take care of its own. For too long it's dumped on  
21 its problems the perversions of the human mind.  
22 I'm sorry, I'm a little emotional at this point but  
23 I'm working on it. I'm sorry.

24 As I overheard in the conversation on a  
25 recent trip to Denver, Colorado, a couple gentlemen  
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1 said, Nevada is like a high price prostitute. If  
2 you throw enough money at her, she'll lay down and  
3 open up her wings. Personally I do not find that  
4 very amusing.

5 MS. TICE: Joe, I need to ask you to wrap  
6 up your comments, please.

7 JOE CARRUTHERS: Okay. I'm sorry I'm  
8 being cut short, but I'm going to wrap it up.

9 Gentleman, members of the DOE, over 75  
10 percent of the residents of Nevada, our governor  
11 and our senators oppose Yucca Mountain. If you  
12 don't remember our words, we will surely remember  
13 you next election time and for 10,000 years to  
14 come. We will be keeping our eye on Washington.  
15 Strong words, you bet, but you should remember, we  
16 Nevadans are a proud and strong people.

17 MS. TICE: Thank you, Joe.

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18 JOE CARRUTHERS: Thank you for your time.

19 (Break in the session.)

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JOE CARRUTHERS: I'm not quite sure where

13 I left off when I rudely kept going. I'm sorry if  
14 I absorbed other people's time. I'd like to make  
15 that apology at this time to you all.

16 We're now reading from the Eureka  
17 commissioners. I'll start there and then I'll have  
18 my own. If an accident were to occur, numerous  
19 impacts such as contamination of the Humboldt River  
20 would affect almost the entire northern part of the  
21 state, not to mention the Crescent Valley aquifer  
22 and soil contamination. The cost burden on Eureka  
23 County and Elko counties would potentially be far  
24 greater than our county's ability to pay in  
25 liability.

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1 These next statements I am to make are of  
2 my own and my own writing. Fasten your seat belt,  
3 folks, because I'm about to tell you like it is.  
4 If Washington, D.C. is the mother of her children,  
5 then Nevada is the abused child, defecated on by a  
6 government that has for too long dumped on it its  
7 childish problems and perversions of the human  
8 mind.

9 As I overheard in a conversation on a  
10 recent trip to Denver, Colorado, a couple gentlemen  
11 speaking said concerning Yucca Mountain, Nevada is  
12 like a high class prostitute. If you throw enough  
13 money at her, she'll lay down and open her wings.  
14 Personally I did not find that very amusing. This  
15 fueled me with renewed vigor and determination to  
16 stop Yucca Mountain from becoming a reality for the  
17 people in Nevada and the United States.

18 And I state firmly if our present  
19 commander in chief and Congress has any conscious,  
20 they will strike down Yucca Mountain and make  
21 amendments with the state of Nevada and the  
22 Shoshone people, just as an abusive mother would do  
23 who has been in denial for too long for the damage

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24 she has done to her child.

25 Gentlemen, members of the DOE, over 75

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1 percent of the residents of Nevada, including the  
2 residents of Crescent Valley and Eureka County and  
3 our governor and our senators oppose Yucca  
4 Mountain. If you don't remember our words, we will  
5 surely remember you next election time and for the  
6 10,000 years to come. We will be keeping our eye  
7 on Washington. Strong words, you bet, but you  
8 should remember, we Nevadans are a proud and strong  
9 people.

10 I'd also like to put some additions in  
11 here that I did not have written down before. In  
12 the future, because this is such a heated debate,  
13 there probably will be protests. And my words  
14 going out to anyone who protests is please protest  
15 in a peaceful manner and do not cause anarchy.

16 And one good reason of many for this is  
17 our public servants, our police officers, our  
18 firemen, whoever else may be out there will be  
19 caught in the middle of all this. Try to remember  
20 that a lot of them probably agree with you, but if  
21 you go out and you cause anarchy and you destroy  
22 people's businesses, it will not help the cause, it  
23 will only defeat it. So if we do protest in the  
24 future, I am making a request to all of you to do  
25 it in a responsible manner so we can conduct our

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1 business in a fair and sensible way. I do  
2 encourage our citizens to partake in a peaceful,  
3 and I do repeat peaceful protest.

4 After this meeting I'm going to be at the  
5 doorway with comment sheets for those interested to  
6 send to Washington and to Las Vegas, if anyone here  
7 is interested. I thank you very much for your time  
8 and for listening to me. Thank you.

9 MS. TICE: Thank you very much.